



STATE OF ARKANSAS
MIKE HUCKABEE
GOVERNOR

August 16, 2006

Mr. Andrew Grossman, Executive Director
Wal-Mart Watch
1730 M Street NW, Suite 601
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Grossman:

Your letter of August 4 requests I sign a letter you drafted for me indicating I join you in bashing Wal-Mart. With all due respect, should I desire to write Wal-Mart's CEO, I'm quite capable of expressing myself and drafting my own letter, but I'm afraid you'd be rather disappointed with the content.

Your movement to attack free enterprise with one-sided, misinformed, blind animosity is not at all appealing. While I certainly believe in free speech, I also believe in responsible speech and your organization fails miserably to provide anything approaching an honest attempt at dialogue with a company whose success and popularity with nearly 140 million customers a week seems to rain on your parade.

It would be very interesting to learn who finances your well-funded multi-million dollar campaign against Wal-Mart. Do you disclose your donors by name and amount? If so, would you please provide me with a list? I do know who pays for Wal-Mart. It is people like me who like shopping there because I can get quality merchandise in great variety at an affordable price in a consumer friendly environment from a company that will stand behind its products.

In my state, I know Wal-Mart employs almost 46,000 people and pays an average wage to its hourly workers of \$9.64 per hour--much higher than the minimum wage of the federal government or even our state which recently raised its minimum wage with both my support and signature. It's curious to me why you aren't attacking or calling out the thousands of other businesses who don't pay nearly as much as Wal-Mart or offer anything like their benefits. Why is that?

Wal-Mart spends almost \$7 billion in Arkansas alone purchasing merchandise from over 1,800 suppliers in our state and helping to support over 67,000 jobs. They collected almost half a



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billion dollars in state and local taxes in Arkansas last year as well, and gave another \$22 million to charity. How many jobs have you created? How many businesses do you support in my state? What is the pay scale for your executives and other employees of your enterprise? In the interest of full disclosure, are you willing to share what you are paid and what all other positions in your organization pay down to the entry level clerks, and going further, would you list the benefits you provide?

As one who didn't grow up a child of privilege, but rather a child close to poverty, I personally find your analysis of Wal-Mart smug and condescending. No one is forced to shop or work at Wal-Mart. If people who grew up like me felt that Wal-Mart was being unfair to its workers or its customers, they would shop and work elsewhere. The reality is that Wal-Mart's efficiency in distribution and purchasing power empowers its customers to be able to have the things affluent people take for granted.

Your traveling circus of appearances to single out Wal-Mart will perhaps attract some politicians and even some maybe in my own state, but please don't hold a seat for me. For the record, I don't own a single share of Wal-Mart stock and I'm not being compensated to defend them even though I presume you are being compensated to attack them.

I do hope that you'll be so kind to respond to my questions as I do not mind having honest dialogue with those who differ with me, but do like to know why a person articulates a certain point of view and who is paying for it. Since you have attacked Wal-Mart for what you perceive to be a lack of transparency, I'm sure you want to fully disclose all aspects of your operation and I await your prompt reply.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Huckabee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mike Huckabee

cc: Mr. Lee Scott, Chief Executive Officer, Wal-Mart